

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 16-25 are amended, and claim 3 is canceled. No new matter is added.

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 is being jointly filed with this amendment. Applicants request the Examiner initial PTO-1449 to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information, and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449.

Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 22 and 23, as amended, now recite "a computer readable medium storing a program." As such, claims 22 and 23 are now directed to statutory subject matter. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0232510 to Blake et al. ("Blake"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now substantively recites identifying the more inconspicuous region between the left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image. The claims also now recite a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions. Likewise, independent claims 13, and 16-22 also now recite similar features.

Additionally, independent claims 2 and 23, as amended, now recite "a removed region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points

corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region."

Blake does not disclose these features. Blake discloses detecting occluded portions to correct artifacts in a cyclopean virtual image generated from stereo images. Thus, Blake only discloses correcting one cyclopean virtual image (generated from at least two images). Blake does not disclose correcting both a right and a left image of a set of stereo images. Thus, Blake does not disclose the recited features of the claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 13, 16-23, and claims 4-12 and 14-15 depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

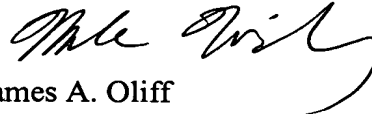
Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Blake in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0089212 to Mashitani et al. ("Mashitani"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Blake fails to disclose the newly added features of claims 24 and 25 (which are similar to the features added to claim 1). Furthermore, Mashitani fails to provide the missing subject matter. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 24 and 25 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Amendment Transmittal
Information Disclosure Statement

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